

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4260

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION UN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 3774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, NO

SUBJVCT: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S AUGUST 18 VISIT TO OSLO

1. SUMMARY: GON WELCOMED AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S EIGHT HOUR
AUGUST 18 VISIT AS AN EXCELLENT PRE-UNGA CONSULTATION AND
ONE WHICH THEY HOPE WILL BE REPEATED REGULARLY. THE VERY
POSITIVE NORWEGIAN REACTION REFLECTS THE STRAIGHTFORWARD AND
COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF PRESENT PROBLEM AREAS AND U.S. POLICY
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OBJECTIVES PROVIDED TO GON OFFICIALS, PRESS REPRESENTATIVES
AND FOREIGN POLICY THINKERS. THE AMBASSADOR'S CANDOR AND
EXPERTISE MADE A STRONG IMPACT IN THE LOCAL MEDIA, HELPING
TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION AND DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT
MULITNATIONAL ISSUES IN WHICH NORWAY TAKES A KEEN INTEREST.
THE TIMING OF THE VISIT WAS PARTICULARLY FORTUNATE, COMING
ONLY TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTURE FOR

LAGOS WHERE HE WILL DELIVER A MAJOR ADDRESS AT THE ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE. AS ANTICIPATED, FEW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GON AND THE USG IN SUBSTANCE OR APPROACH EMERGED DURING THE AUGUST 18 SESSIONS. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY DID NOT CLEAR THIS CABLE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING WITH MFA REPRESENTATIVES: DURING A TWO-AND-A-HALF HOUR WORKING LUNCH HOSTED BY MFA PERMANT UNDER SECRETARY STOLTENBERG, AMBASSADOR MCHENRY OUTLINED TO THE SENIOR MFA OFFICIALS PRESENT THE THREE MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS THAT THE U.S. SEES IN THE UPCOMING UNGA: THE MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SAID THAT IN OUR VIEW WITHOUT PROGRESS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THE CONFRONTATIONAL TACTICS WHICH WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE IN THE UN ARE LIKELY TO SURFACE AGAIN, POSSIBLY THROUGH ZIONIST/RACISM RESOLUTIONS. STOLTENBERG SAID THAT THE CURRENT COMMUNIQUE DRAFT FOR THE UPCOMING NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE CONTAINED A STATEMENT DRAFTED BY THE DANES ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE C 9 STATEMENT OF LATE JUNE WHICH, HE SAID, SHOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY GAVE AN EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICA SITUATION NOTING THAT HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHETHER A RHODESIAN SOLUTION WAS POSSIBLE
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BEFORE THE UNGA OPENED. IT WAS MORE DIFFICULT, HE SAID, TO PREDICT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN ON THE NAMIBIAN ISSUES, THOUGH THERE HAD BEEN SOME SUCCESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS. BOTH THE RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN PROPOSALS NOW BEING DISCUSSED, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, WOULD EVENTUALLY BE COSTLY IN TERMS OF MONEY AND PERSONNEL (BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN). MCHENRY STRESSED THAT A UN MILITARY PRESENCE IF THERE WAS TO BE ONE WOULD BE SMALL AND LARGELY SYMBOLIC.

5. THE QUESTION OF THOSE SWAPO MEMBERS PRESENTLY HELD BY ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA SEEMS CAPABLE OF SOLUTION, MCHENRY SAID, AS THE TWO COUNTRIES APPEAR PREPARED TO RELEASE THE INDIVIDUALS AFTER AN AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. THE DIFFICULTY, HOWEVER, IS THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA, LEAVING OPEN THE QUESTION OF WHERE TO SEND THEM. STOLTENBERG COMMENTED THAT NORWAY WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE SOME OF THE PRISONERS IF IT WOULD HELP THE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. TURNING TO THE VIENNA TALKS, MCHENRY SAID THAT THE USG HAD TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON VORSTER THAT IT WAS INADEQUATE

FOR HIM MERELY TO TELL SMITH THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER
DECISION HE TOOK, A STANCE WHICH TENDED TO DECREASE A
COUNTRY'S POLICY OPTIONS. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL
COUNTRIES, MCHENRY EMPHASIZED, TO RETAIN FLEXIBILITY IN
THE SOUTH AFRICA AREA SO THAT THEY COULD APPLY PRESSURE
ON ONE OR THE OTHER INVOLVED PARTIES IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT A
SETTLEMENT. NORWAY, FOR INSTANCE, MIGHT BE CALLED UPON
AT SOME POINT TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES WITH VARIOUS NATIONALIST MOVE-
MENTS PERSUADE THEM OF THE REASONABLENESS AND ACCEPTABILITY OF
A PARTICULAR POSITION. STOLTENBERG SAID HE FULLY UNDER-
STOOD THE POINT BUT WANTED TO UNDERSCORE THAT NORWAY'S
ABILITY TO HELP DEPENDED IN LARGE PART ON CONTINUING
CLOSE AND INFORMATIVE CONTACT WITH THE USG. MCHENRY PROMISED TO KEEP
GON INFORMED.
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7. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE UPCOMING LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID
CONFERENCE, MCHENRY SAID THAT OUR OVERALL HOPE WAS TO
KEEP EXTRANEIOUS AND VOLATILE ISSUES SUCH AS ZIONISM/RACISM
OUT OF THE CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS, A GOAL WITH WHICH THE
NORWEGIANS READILY AGREED. ADDITIONALLY, MCHENRY SAID
THE USG FORESAW FOUR PROBLEM AREAS: SPEAKING OF SOUTH
AFRICA IN COLONIALISM TERMS; ATTEMPTING TO DEPRIVE SOUTH
AFRICA OF ITS UN RIGHTS ON THE BASIS THAT THEY ARE NO
LONGER LIVING UP TO THEIR OBLIGATIONS (HINT OF THIS IN
SOME DOCUMENTS PRESENTLY CIRCULATING AROUND THE UN);
MOVING FOR CHAPTER VII ACTION A COURSE WHICH THE USG WOULD HAVE TO
CONSIDER CAREFULLY; AND FINALLY, RECOMMENDING THAT LOANS AND
NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA CEASE.

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P R 221434Z AUG 77

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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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8. STOLTENBERG COMMENTED THAT THE GON WOULD BE OPPOSED TO ATTEMPTS TO EXCLUDE SOUTH AFRICA FROM UN MEMBERSHIP BUT HAD NO DIFFICULTY WITH THE INVESTMENT/LOAN ITEM AS IT WAS ALREADY NORWEGIAN POLICY TO DISCOURAGE NEW ECONOMIC ACTIVITY BY NORWEGIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

9. AS FAR AS THE UPCOMING UN SESSIONS WERE CONCERNED, BOTH AMBASSADOR MCHENRY AND THE NORWEGIAN SIDE AGREED THAT THE RESUMED SESSION WOULD PROBABLY BE FAIRLY QUIET WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MAJOR DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE DURING THE SUBSEQUENT REGULAR SESSION OF THE UNGA.

10. MEETING WITH RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT REPRESENTATIVES: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY PARTICIPATED IN AN HOUR LONG ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE NOBEL INSTITUTE, THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE AND THE PEACH RESEARCH INSTITUTE. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE PERIOD WAS DEVOTED TO MCHENRY'S REMARKS, THE GROUP DID QUESTION HIM CLOSELY ON AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AND ON THE QUESTION OF HOW FAR THE USG WAS WILLING TO GO IN EXERTING PRESSURE ON THE SOUTH AFRICANS. THE ISSUE OF POSSIBLE MILITARY PRESENCE, ALBEIT SYMBOLIC, STIMULATED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS, ALL OF WHOM SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED TO AN EMBASSY OFFICER THEIR PLEASANT SURPRISE AT AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S CANDOR AND THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THESE ISSUES WITH SUCH AN OBVIOUS EXPERT.

11. MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS: AMBASSADOR MCHENRY MET FOR

45 MINUTES WITH FIVE JOURNALISTS FROM THE LEADING OSLO NEWSPAPERS AND THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING DIRECTORATE (NRK). THE SESSION WAS INFORMAL AND FOCUSED LARGELY ON SOUTH AFRICA BUT ALSO INCLUDED QUESTIONS ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AND THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHT INITIATIVES. THE LABOR PARTY DAILY, ARBEIDERBLADET, FEATURED THE INTERVIEW IN ITS FRIDAY EDITION, CARRYING THE ESSENCE OF MCHENRY'S SOUTH AFRICA REMARKS IN TOTO, AS WELL AS A PHOTO. THE OTHER PAPERS PRESENT HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL CARRY STORIES DURING THE NEXT WEEK, WHILE NRK WAS SO IMPRESSED WITH THE EARLIER SESSION THAT THEY ASKED FOR A SPECIAL INTERVIEW JUST PRIOR TO THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. THE RESULTING FIVE MINUTE SESSION WITH THE FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR WAS SHOWN IN ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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ENTIRETY ON NORWAY'S MAJOR EVENING SHOW WHICH REACHES AN ESTIMATED TWO MILLION PEOPLE. CLIPPINGS AND TRANSLATIONS AND A TRANSCRIPT OF THE AIRED PORTION WILL BE POUCHED.

12. CONCLUSION: THE NORWEGIANS HAVE TRADITIONALLY EXERTED THEMSELVES IN THE MULTILATERAL ARENA, PARTICULARLY THE UN, CONSIDERING IT THE PROPER FIELD UPON WHICH A HIGHLY PRINCIPLED, PROSPEROUS BUT SMALL NATION SHOULD PLAY. OVER THE YEARS, THEY HAVE BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF USG POLICIES DIFFERING WITH US IN A MAJOR WAY ONLY ON VIETNAM. HOWEVER, AS THE MULTILATERAL ISSUES HAVE EVOLVED AND BECOME MORE POLITICALIZED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS AND PARTICULARLY SINCE THE EMERGENCE OF THE SOUTH AFRICA TANGLED SKEIN, IT HAS BEEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GON TO KEEP INFORMED AND INVOLVED. THEREFORE, VISITS SUCH AS AMBASSADOR MCHENRY'S SERVE TO EDUCATE, REFOCUS, AND DIRECT THE VERY REAL ASSETS OF THE GON AND TO MAKE THEM MUCH MORE USEFUL TO OUR OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES.
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Message Attributes

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